

# FAYETTE COUNTY

## Honorable Jerry L. Clary

Fayette County Courthouse  
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Sonny Cotton  
Chris McCool  
Sherry Grey  
Jane Newman  
Hubert Norris  
Danielle Atkinson  
Jimmy Madison  
Bonnie Burt  
Joan Weaver  
April Knight

Carol Albritton  
Isaac Espy  
Carmen Poe  
Nancy Maddox  
Janelle Couch  
Danny Dean  
Paul Tucker  
Stan Sledge  
Angie Junkin  
Deborah Long

Rhonda Dunavant  
William Thigpen  
Jason Cowart  
Rosalind Peoples  
Roger Bedford  
Denese Marion  
Reba Anderson



Vista Volunteer: Cynthia Moore

## Council Priorities

### 1. All children live in a drug free environment

*Children deserve to have happy homes without the presence illegal drugs.*

### 2. Assure community resources are available to entire family.

*Fayette County CPC will seek funding through grant writing and from our legislators for a family center to house a variety of services.*

### 3. Increase leveraging potential for our Children's Policy Council.

*Fayette County Children's Policy Council will seek to increase our capacity from Level 1 to Level 2 or 3 during 2006 - 2007.*

# Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county

## Early Care Education

Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

### Lack of public awareness of available resources

#### Action Steps

- 1) Prepare a community resource list.
- 2) Obtain funding for a family resource center.

### Funding to increase amount of resources

#### Action Steps

- 1) Seek legislation to allow the tobacco permit fee to be used for children's programs.
- 2) Continue to seek grant opportunities.

### Lack of transportation to obtain services

#### Action Steps

- 1) Communicate with faith-based organizations to see if they might provide some transportation.
- 2) Coordinate with medical and rehabilitation services to suggest that they bring their services to Fayette County.
- 3) Publicize existing services.

## Economic Security

Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

### Job opportunities

#### Action Steps

- 1) Promote technology within current school systems and encourage students to look closely at technology positions available in the local market area.
- 2) Have business and industry identify technological needs for prospective students and future employees.
- 3) Encourage local business to look at ways technology can advance their business and how students may be able to assist them in this growth.
- 4) Promote needs of non-college bound students and identify available job opportunities.

### Education equals economic opportunities

#### Action Steps

- 1) Have speakers from private sector promote school-sponsored tours of businesses to let students understand what corporate America looks like on a daily basis.
- 2) Organize private sector mentoring program.
- 3) Make Career Day available to every grade level at all county schools.

## **Job opportunities ("hands-on" skill based)**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Continue to offer vocational training.
- 2) Provide training that helps students to be able to compete for all high skill labor jobs.
- 3) Promote GED program opportunities.
- 4) Make information available to students regarding educational opportunities (non-traditional avenues) at Beville State Community College.
- 5) Have Career Fair to dropouts, at-risk and limited intelligence students.

## **Education**

Children learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

## **Attendance of students in county schools**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Have attendance officer work closely with judge.
- 2) Strengthen ties with DHR personnel to help assist families with situations relating to absenteeism.
- 3) Encourage incentive programs for students with perfect or near perfect attendance.

## **Prevention of student dropouts in the county**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Meet students' personal needs and reduce potential problems leading to dropouts by pursuing funding for a social worker to work with school system.
- 2) Eliminate or reduce retention by supporting funding for summer and regular academic programs through Children First and local and state agencies.

## **Health**

Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

## **Growing presence of methamphetamine**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Develop more educational programs for the schools and community about the dangers of drugs.
- 2) Educate the public to identify materials that are used in the making and using of drugs.
- 3) Communicate with clubs and civic organizations the need for funds to educate the public about the dangers of tobacco and illegal drugs.

## **Non-enforcement of laws concerning the sale to and use of tobacco by county youth**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Increase efforts to educate parents about the illegal use of tobacco by children.
- 2) Strongly encourage greater enforcement of laws concerning tobacco use.
- 3) Provide information to the public about which establishments are tobacco free.
- 4) Continue to communicate with schools and the Park and Recreation Board in the need to enforce policies and rules related to the possession and the use of tobacco products at extra curricular activities.

## **Parent Involvement Skills**

Parents and guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

### **More parenting class alternatives to Parent Project**

#### **Action Steps**

- 1) Encourage all agencies to seek materials to teach effective parenting.
- 2) Involve individuals from faith based organizations and senior citizen groups to help to teach effective parenting skills.
- 3) Continue efforts to obtain a neutral facility, such as a Family Resource Center, in which to teach these classes.

### **Parenting classes for special needs children**

#### **Action Steps**

- 1) Seek training to provide parents with traditional and innovative ways to help children with special needs.
- 2) Prepare a resource guide listing services in our area.
- 3) Seek grant funding for more services.

### **Lack or parent involvement**

#### **Action Steps**

- 1) Advertise parenting classes in print, on the radio, and on local TV station.
- 2) Collaborate with all county schools and day care facilities in their efforts for parent involvement.
- 3) Ask businesses to participate in encouraging family activities, such as "Family Night Out" discount night.
- 4) Encourage faith-based organizations to have couples that are successful in parenting their children to mentor families that are having problems.

## **Safety**

Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

### **Drug abuse - particularly methamphetamine and prescription drugs**

#### **Action Steps**

- 1) Educate law enforcement, DHR staff, JPO, medical personnel, mental health staff, and educators in the dangers associated with the manufacture of methamphetamine by sponsoring training sessions.
- 2) Educate parents and the general public on the dangers and effects associated with drug usage.
- 3) Inform family and caregivers of children whose parents are involved with drugs that there is some financial support through DHR.

## **Sexual abuse**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Educate parents on the danger of children becoming involved with internet pornography.
- 2) Educate youth on laws relating to statutory rape, sexual harassment, indecent behavior, and other sex crimes.
- 3) Develop counseling programs for young sexual offenders.
- 4) Participate in the county's efforts to raise funds for a short term detention facility.

## **Lack of activities for adolescents and young adults**

### **Action Steps**

- 1) Continue to discuss topics with youth, such as sexual harassment and bullying, in order to help them cope in an appropriate manner.
- 2) Encourage the development of wholesome activities in which youth can participate in Fayette County, including all sports, drama, music, art, and 4-H.

# **Policy Recommendations**

- Secure funding for a Family Resource Center site and facility.
- Support legislation that advocates tobacco permit fee to go CPC or Family Resource Center.
- Support efforts to require mandatory marriage training prior to obtaining a marriage license.
- Promote a constitutional amendment to require passage of state budgets during the regular session.
- Promote legislation for assets-seizure money from criminal cases to go to local children and family programs.
- Promote legislation for asset-seizure money from criminal cases to go to our county's economic development.
- Encourage the State Department of Education to require technology to be apart of the core curriculum and provide teacher units and training for such.

# Accomplishments

- Fayette County CPC acquired a VISTA volunteer in April, 2006.
- The County Extension Service had training for two different parenting programs, "Parenting after Divorce and Separation".
- West Alabama Advocacy Center presented puppet shows to elementary students to educate them about sexual abuse.
- Dare Officer served 6<sup>th</sup> grade, in addition to 5<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Fayette County used the Drug Rehabilitation Facility in Walker County to help female drug offenders.
- "Team Impact" visited all county schools to show students how to be positive role models and how to choose their responses when confronted with bullying.
- In 2005-06 DHR provided a liaison to collaborate with schools on a part time basis.
- Fayette Elementary Principal Sarah Newton was awarded a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant which helped with after school daycare. She and Julie Moore began the SMART program which provides a variety of enrichment activities. It also offers tutoring for elementary and middle school students.
- Second Opportunity is being used to help with dropouts.
- Alternative School provides tutoring for at-risk students.
- The fatherhood Initiative provides counseling for teenage fathers.
- The Rap and Gap programs give counseling for male and female...
- Berry High School sponsored a trip to Six Flags to serve as an incentive for attendance.
- "Stop the Violence" program was used in Berry schools to help provide appropriate behavior in threatening situations.
- "Job Shadow" day on February 2<sup>nd</sup> allowed 9<sup>th</sup> graders the opportunity to see how various vocations work on a daily basis.